

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 04908 050716Z

15

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8482

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UNCLAS BERN 4908

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SZ

SUBJECT: E-VISAS

REF: STATE 234963

1. A RECENT REVIEW OF PAST E-VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURES BY EMBASSY DISCLOSED THAT TOO LIBERAL AN INTERPRETATION OF PERTINENT REGULATIONS HAD BEEN ADOPTED. SWISS CORPORATIONS ARE CURRENTLY REQUESTING E VISAS FOR FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PERSONNEL WHICH WE CONSIDER INELIGIBLE FOR E STATUS: (1) PERSONNEL WHO WILL HOLD LESS THAN EXECUTIVE RANK IN US OFFICES, (2) TEMPORARY TRAINING AND FAMILIARIZATION ASSIGNMENTS FOR THEIR EUROPEAN EXECUTIVES, (CASE OF PETER SCHAETZLE OF CIBA-GEIGY WHICH EMBASSY ASSUMES PROMPTED INQUIRY TO DEPARTMENT), (3) SECRETARIAL POSITIONS WITH MARGINAL EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY, (4) TEMPORARY INTER-COMPANY TRANSFERS TO FURTHER PERSONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND (5) USE OF E STATUS FOR SKILLED PROCESSIONALS.

2. REEXAMINATION OF EMBASSY PROCEDURES WAS IN PART MOTIVATED BY INCREASING PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH RESTRICTIVE SWISS POLICY IN ISSUING RESIDENCE/WORK PERMITS TO US BUSINESSMEN ASSIGNED TO SWITZERLAND BY THEIR US FIRMS. CIBA-GEIGY PERSONNEL DIRECTOR WAS INFORMED IN RECENT TELCON THAT E VISA WOULD BE ISSUED SCHAETZLE IN VIEW HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE BUT THAT FUTURE CASES WHICH DID NOT FALL WITHIN PURVIEW OF CURRENT US REGULATIONS (22 CFR 41.40) WOULD HAVE TO BE PROCESSED

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PAGE 02 BERN 04908 050716Z

AS H OR L VISAS. QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL TREATMENT WAS

ONLY MENTIONED WHEN COMPANY STATED THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES
WERE ENTITLED TO E VISAS BY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

3. BROAD EXPOSITION OF PROBLEMS TO US BUSINESSMEN AND
HENCE TO EMBASSY REGARDING RESTRICTIVE SWISS POLICY
IN ISSUANCE OF RESIDENCE/WORK PERMITS AND REQUEST FOR
ADVISORY OPINION WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE AIRGRAM.
DAVIS

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